

THOUSAND OAKS CITY COUNCIL



Supplemental Information Packet

CM Rodriguez

**Agenda Related Items - Meeting of March 22, 2016
Supplemental Packet Date: March 22, 2016
5:00 P.M.**

Supplemental Information:

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CityClerk - TOCC agenda presentations tonite Cabrillo Th. 4D 03/22/16

From: "NICK I. Quidwai" <concernedcitztoaks@gmail.com>
To: CityClerk <cityclerk@toaks.org>, "city@toaks.org" <city@toaks.org>, Anto...
Date: 3/22/2016 10:31 AM
Subject: TOCC agenda presentations tonite Cabrillo Th. 4D 03/22/16

What hog wash by council woman Bill!! It is NOT 10s of thousands and the \$\$ generated is minuscule. She & the council including city manager did NOT support Cabrillo or the other non profits as they have RAISED their fees; box office is run poorly Citizens had foretold that theaters would loose money & be prepared to fund them But they did not listen. Other performances will shut down like the Oxnard, Port Hueneme theatres did as govt. does not know how to handle ANYTHING but their high salaries & perks!!!
FROM VC Star

CONEJO VALLEY

Cabrillo Music Theater in Thousand Oaks will suspend productions after this season



Contributed Photo/Ed Krieger Larry Raben, left, and Nick Santa Maria perform in Cabrillo Music Theatre's "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza earlier this year. The theater company announced Monday that it was suspending productions after this season

By Cindy Von Quechnow of the Ventura County Star

Cabrillo Music Theater in Thousand Oaks will suspend productions at the end of the 2015-2016 season in July, officials said Monday.

The Little Mermaid, running July 15-24, will be the group's last show.

Cabrillo was the only locally-based professional musical theater company and only resident company at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza for 22 years, according to the group's board of directors.

Officials cited escalating theater costs, declining ticket sales and reduction in grant income as reasons for the decision.

The suspension means the following season will be canceled. That included productions of Evita, Tarzan, Sister Act and Peter Pan.

In a news release, the board said continuing to produce shows at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza under the terms and conditions mandated by the city of Thousand Oaks would be "fiscally irresponsible,"

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 5.D.
MEETING DATE 3-22-16

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but that it will explore ways the theater company can "reinvent itself for a more secure future."

"Our short- and long-term stability is at stake and the Board of Cabrillo Music Theatre has determined that it would be negligent to move forward at this time with future shows and raise the risk of incurring more debt," the news release reads.

The board believes the loss of the theater company will be felt throughout the community, affecting local businesses, restaurants and stores.

Thousand Oaks Councilwoman, Claudia Bill-de la Peña agreed and said that while the announcement wasn't a surprise, it's not less painful to hear.

"The loss of Cabrillo Music Theatre is a tremendous blow, not only to the community and the arts, but also to the local economy. It is sad to see this happen in this day and age," she said.

Bill-de la Peña added the group draws residents from surrounding communities who then dine and shop in the area.

"Those tens of thousands of people will no longer do business in Thousand Oaks," the councilwoman said.

She added the group also brought "Broadway-caliber shows" to children, members of the military and senior centers.

Richard Storrs, a Cabrillo board member, said though the decision was tough, it was necessary.

He explained that the company does not have access to ticket sale revenues until after a show closes, so it wouldn't be responsible to continue with the new season if resources were not there to fund it. "It's the saddest thing in the world for me because my kids are all actors and my two daughters have been on stage with Cabrillo," Storrs said. He and his wife have also participated in productions, and his son worked backstage for a show.

"They cut their teeth there," he said.

Storrs said the Civic Arts Plaza has given the group a short window before it has to open up the dates previously reserved for productions, in case the financial situation changes. The group had a close call two years ago, but an emergency fundraising campaign allowed them to reach their goal.

The group also discussed moving to a different venue in Ventura County or the San Fernando Valley, Storrs said.

The city holds all funds generated by the season and single ticket purchases, and all subscriptions for 2016-2017, and accompanying donations, will be returned to subscribers.

Cabrillo Music Theatre started its Ventura County run nearly 50 years ago, when founders Mara Lysova and husband Larry Parker staged alternating productions of "South Pacific" and "Oklahoma!" at the then-new Oxnard Civic Auditorium.

Nick J. Quidwai

"Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive."

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The troupe continued for about a decade before going on hiatus. It was revived under new management in the late 1980s with shows at the Oxnard venue and, in the early 1990s, at the Dorill B. Wright Cultural Center in Port Hueneme.

Cabrillo's residency at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza started with a production of "The Music Man" in 1994.

Staff writer Lisa McKinnon contributed to this report.

About Cindy Von Quednow